AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended) A receiving unit associated with at least one local monitoring unit for use in a monitoring system, the receiving unit ~~receives~~ receiving transmitted signals transmitted from at least one transmitting tag, the receiving unit comprising:

~~an attenuating unit (110) for attenuating the transmitted signals by a controlled factor;~~

a receiver [[(120)]] for receiving and processing the transmitted signals into readable data;

~~a microcontroller (130) for determining the distance between the at least one transmitting tags and the receiving unit; and~~

[[an]] electronic circuitry [[(150)]] for calculating the received strength signal indication;

an attenuating unit for attenuating the received signals by a controlled factor, said controlled factor being determined in accordance with said received signal strength indication; and

a microcontroller for determining the distance between the at least one transmitting tags and the receiving unit.

2.   (Currently amended) The receiving unit of claim 1 further comprising an antenna [[(100)]] for receiving the transmitted signal by the at least one transmitting tag.

3.   (Currently amended) The receiving unit of claim 1 further comprising an analog to digital converter [[(140)]] for converting the transmitted signals into digital signals.

4.   (Original) The receiving unit of claim 1 wherein the transmitted signals are radio frequency signals.

5.   (Currently amended) A method for determining [[the]] a distance of [[an]] at least one transmitting [[tags]] tag from a receiving unit, the method comprising the steps of:

waiting [[(210)]] for a signal to be received from an at least one transmitting tag;

receiving (220) passing the received signal, the received signal passes to a microcontroller for processing;

measuring [[(230)]] the received signal and calculating [[the]] a received signal strength signal-indication of the received signal;

[[If]] if the received signal strength signal-indication is stronger than a threshold level [[(240)]], updating the microcontroller is updated (241) and the to increase attenuation is increased (step 242) of a subsequently received signal.

6.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of:

if the received signal strength indication is smaller than the threshold level [[(240)]], querying the microcontroller is queried to obtain a current attenuation factor value [[(243)]]; and

calculating a distance between the receiver and the at least one transmitting tags is calculated (250).

7.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the receiver is a radio frequency receiver.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the threshold level is pre calculated based on the receiver parameters.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the calculation of the distance between the receiver and the at least one transmitting tag is performed using a lookup table.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one transmitting tag is worn by a monitored person.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one transmitting tag is worn by a monitored animal.

12.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one transmitting tag is a securely security device attached by a fixed or mobile object.

13.　　(New) The system of claim 1 wherein the receiving unit is coupled to an operating system for controlling the operating system in according with the distance between the at least one transmitting tag and the receiving unit.

14.　　(New) The system of claim 13 wherein said operating system is a door lock mechanism.

15.　　(New) The method of claim 5 further comprising controlling an operating system coupled to the receiving unit in according with the distance between the at least one transmitting tag for allowing or denying accesses to a particular zone or a particular piece of equipment.